

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, October 19, 1879, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Cambridge, October 19th., 1879. My dear Mrs. Bell:

I am afraid you were very much disgusted as well as disappointed when Alec's telegram arrived. I was so very very sorry about it all and would have gone but that the doctor forbade. At all events you could not feel as unhappy as I did for it was not your fault and I felt that not only were we disappointing you all but were staying here where our room must be preferred to our company. It was however, not quite so unfortunate as I thought, for that very night Alec suffered from feverish cold and only felt like himself again last night. My own cold is of little consequence, but I have had it for nearly a month now and caught more a week ago and on Wednesday was quite weak and faint from it, so the doctor says I must not go away until it is quite gone and I strong again. I know you would not have me do anything that might hurt my little baby.

We are expecting Papa and Sister home on Tuesday or Wednesday unless another mail says they put off their departure. Alec will meet them in New York and I hope by the end of the week we will be with you at last but I shall not let Alec telegraph again until we have fairly got under way. We were all ready to leave Wednesday, our purchases made and trunks packed etc, etc.

We have been having very trying weather the past month. One day so cold that we have the furnace fires lighted, early next morning and pass the new day melting under the combined influence of furnace and a summer sun's heat. There were not many warmer days in July and August than some we have had lately.

## Library of Congress

Alec went to Washington a fortnight ago and after going through boarding houses and apartment hotels decided that none would exactly suit and we wrote to engage the pretty little house Mamma had last winter. 2 Expecting to go at once to Canada Alec asked the agent to write there but as we have not heard from Mr. Bell we yesterday telegraphed to Washington but too late for a reply apparently. I am very much disappointed for I have set my heart on getting that house and am anxious to be sure of it. If we hear before leaving Boston I am going to buy some things we need for the house, curtains and china etc., none of which I could get as well in Washington. Mamma's house is not far away, on the way to Rhode Island Avenue and she is buying all her furniture for it here. I alas must give up my idea of buying any "Grandisonian" or otherwise for the house is furnished.

Alec says he is going to write to you, but his thoughts are turned on silenium and I fear you will see him first.

With much love and hoping to see you very soon,

Lovingly, May Bell.